

Board of Selectmen's Meeting
December 6, 2012

Present: First Selectman Gayle Weinstein; Selectman David Muller; Selectman Dennis Tracey; Town Administrator Tom Landry; Administrative Assistant Judy DeVito; Residents.

This meeting was recorded and videotaped. Copies are available in the Selectmen's office. The meetings are available for viewing online via the Town's website.

Ms. Weinstein called the meeting to order at 7:30pm

Pledge of Allegiance

Moment of Silence for former First Selectman Barbara Wagner- Ms. Weinstein said that Barbara Wagner, who recently passed away, served as First Selectman from 1973 to 1975. She was the first woman in the State of Connecticut to serve as either a First Selectman or Mayor.

Presentation of the Sports Person of the Year plaque- Michael Carter- The Weston Sports Commission which represents 10 sports programs in Town, nominated Sybil Ledwick as the Weston Sports Person of the year. She will now be entered into the Fairfield Sports Person of the year competition. She is the first woman to win the award.

Discussion regarding space needs review for the Police Department- Brian Humes Chief Troxell said he got three different proposals from three architectural firms: Jacunski Humes, Brinkley and Kaesle Boos. After looking at the three proposals Mr. Humes was asked to do a presentation. Ms. Weinstein said that Jacunski and Humes stuck out because of the number of space needs reviews that they have done in the State of Connecticut.

Chief Troxell said that he spoke to Chief Fuchs in Redding and he said that Jacunski Humes were on time, on budget and extremely professional. Chief Fuchs said he would be happy to come to Weston and speak on Jacunski Humes behalf. Chief Troxell also spoke to the secretary at the Danbury Police Department since the Chief was not available and she said they are extremely happy with the building in Danbury and it is an extremely functional building.

He also called Monroe and Jacunski Humes did their initial space assessment 12 years ago and are working with them trying to get a building built for them as well. Mr. Humes said right now Monroe is currently under construction.

Mr. Humes said that he has been doing police facility design for 25 years. The last 6 years has been with his firm. They are based out of Berlin, Connecticut and they do most of their work in Connecticut and Massachusetts. Most departments have found that experience is what they need in this building type and they have more experience than any other firm in New England in doing, looking at and evaluating police facilities.

Mr. Muller asked what was different about the construction, design and planning of a police department as opposed to another municipal building. Mr. Humes said you have to

be very concerned about three different occupants of the building, the public as they enter and need services from the police department, the police staff and how they operate within the building, and the detainees and prisoners. All three of those occupants deserve and need to be afforded safety, security and confidentiality. The police department building is unlike any other municipal building.

Mr. Humes said that the first task they were asked to do is a space needs assessment. He won't have a real idea on how the square footage can be accommodated until they do the needs assessment. Once the needs assessment is done and looked at and they get some authorization to proceed then they will go to the next step. Then they would be looking at the site and applying the assessment needs to the site. Once that's done they will do a floor plan. When those are all done the final step in the process is a professional cost estimate.

Alan Swerlowe asked what the next phase would be after the professional cost estimate. Mr. Hume said it would go to a funding authorization and then determining what is the best delivery method for the building, whether it's construction management or general contractor. Next, put together a set of documents for bidding, going through the construction phase, furniture, acquisition and occupancy.

Mr. Humes said that the proposed contract has fees broken out for each phase so he would like some review and authorization to go to the next phase. He said we can take this in pieces and he anticipates that it would take five months. The timing is up to the Town and he can be flexible depending on how fast or slow the Town wants to move. Ms. Weinstein will bring this to the Police Commission and Building Committee for review. Mr. Tracey said he would like to see the contract before it's signed. Mr. Tracey asked if Ms. Weinstein was going to have a role in interfacing with the architect, the police commission and the chief as this progress. Ms. Weinstein said that was her intention. Mr. Tracey said that would be his understanding in approving going forward.

Discussion/decision regarding the appointment of Michelle Albright as the Town of Weston's Youth Services Director. Michelle Albright said she has a PHD in clinical psychology and for the past 15 years has worked with children and families and school and community across the country. She was trained traditionally so she can do direct social services and clinical services but she has done a lot of work with program development and written curriculum and then rolled them out to schools across the country. She has done a lot of professional development training for teachers as well as family involvement of parent workshops. One of her areas of specialty is school family community partnerships and trying to build bridges between family schools and communities and ensuring that services are consistent and there is more overlap and less redundancy. She is a Weston resident and has two kids in the Weston School System.

Ms. Weinstein said that Michelle will be working closely with Charlene Chiang-Hillman, our social services director as well as Meghan Skelton who is the school social services director to make sure that there is no hole that those kids and families fall into and that they can have a smooth transition between what is considered school related responsibilities and what is considered Town related responsibilities.

Mr. Muller moved to authorize the First Selectman to extend a conditional offer and appoint Michelle Albright as the Town of Weston's Youth Services Director pending the completion of the background check. Mr. Tracey seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Discussion/decision regarding the reappointment of Ray Rauth and Bernadette Park to the Bicycle and Pedestrian committee for a term to expire December 31, 2014. Ray passed a packet out to the board and said that he was working with the Connecticut Bicycle and Pedestrian advisory board and those are things the Towns can do to prepare their streets for pedestrian and bicycle access. Fairfield is putting in its first bike lane and Norwalk's downtown is heavily focused on cycling and pedestrian non-motorized transportation. Ray said the committee is fabulous, enthusiastic, intelligent, and smart and gets things done.

Bernie Parks said she was very excited to stay on the committee. The response from the first Bicycle and Pedestrian Day and the overwhelming response was that they would like to see more of it.

Mr. Tracey moved to reappoint Ray Rauth and Bernadette Park to the Bicycle and Pedestrian Committee for a term to expire December 31, 2014. Mr. Muller seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Discussion/decision regarding the appointment of Lyette Segerdahl to the Beautification Committee for a term to expire June 30, 2016. Lyette said she had finished her term on Beautification Committee but her team has requested her presence again. Mr. Tracey moved to appoint Lyette Segerdahl to fill the vacancy on the Beautification Committee for a term to expire June 30, 2016. Mr. Muller seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Request for property tax refunds:

CAB East LLC	\$445.34
TD Auto Finance	\$265.23
Honda Lease Trust	\$296.53
Toyota Financial Services	\$1,133.30
Arthur George Kingsmill	<u>\$292.74</u>
	\$2,433.14

Mr. Muller moved to approve property tax refunds in the amount of \$2,433.14 as listed on the December 6, 2012 Board of Selectmen's agenda. Mr. Tracey seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Open Items

Updates

Grants- Gayle Weinstein- Sgt. Michael Ferullo and Ms. Weinstein have been working with FEMA to get everything in place for reimbursement for Hurricane Sandy. She asked

the representative to try and get the refund quicker this time so it is at least in the same fiscal year.

Regionalization- Chief Troxell gave some background. They looked at regionalizing the dispatch center with Redding and Easton Police Department. After discussion, Chief Troxell said he was against it because he felt that the distance was too far to have a communication center in Redding and wrote a letter telling them why he was against it.

Chief Troxell said he has had numerous meetings with Chief Lombardo in Wilton and was more open minded about that because from Weston Police Department to Wilton Police Department is a 7 minute drive. He felt that if we were to do a regional dispatch center that that might work. When we got hit with Hurricane Sandy, his opened mindedness was shut down. Weston's dispatch center was the nerve center of our emergency response. Emergency personnel where there fielding calls, writing down priority list and even after the storm, the dispatch center was the nerve center. Had the dispatch center been in Wilton there was no way to get to the Wilton Police Department for a number of days. Chief Troxell said his recommendation is we need to do whatever we can to keep our communications center in Town. If there is some other way that we could do this that would improve safety for the community and also improve service he would be open to it.

Mr. Muller asked why the proximity to that control center was important absent the storm scenario. Chief Troxell said because we would be unable to have control over it. Mr. Tracey said he has a hard time accepting that a 7 minute drive in that direction makes a difference. He said he would be more concerned about the inability to have an integrated team which has a definite control structure working together.

Ms. Weinstein said in non-storm situations, that they would all agree that they can have a communication center out of town. The question becomes, what happens when we do have these emergencies. What we do in Weston is we had the police and DPW workers driving the roads and reporting back those emergencies to the communication center. She said one question she has, is what it would take as far as equipment if we needed to have that in Weston for an emergency. She asked Sgt. Daubert to look into it to determine if we need full redundancy of equipment.

Chief Troxell said one of the things that we should consider is the fact that no one wants to give up control and nobody wants to send their people to another Town. Mr. Tracey asked if they had identified other pairs of communities that have done this successfully and is there any precedent. Ms. Weinstein said some smaller communities under 2,000 population do have shared communications in Connecticut. A lot of those have either the resident trooper program or a shared police department. There is a study which has been going on now for seven years to figure out if it is going to work. They go through the mechanisms, and get stuck at the personnel and union issues. We may lose funding or the state could mandate we do it.

Mr. Tracey said he feels the public does want us to focus on this and not give up on regionalization of some kind in various areas and think creatively about it. He sees the issues they are raising and they are significant but he would not abandon all discussions.

Any other business to come properly before the meeting.

Mr. Muller moved to add to the agenda a discussion/decision regarding disposal of an old lever voting machine. Mr. Tracey seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Laura Smits said this is the last lever voting machine we have left. It has been at the schools and was used for demonstration. It is scrap metal at this point and will be taken to the transfer station.

Mr. Tracey moved to approve the disposal of the old voting lever machine. Mr. Muller seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Tracey moved to add to the agenda a discussion about where we stand on the North House issue. Mr. Muller seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Ms. Weinstein said at the tri board meeting in October, the Superintendent said that because of declining enrollment, she felt that they could allocate the first floor of North House to the Town for municipal use. In exchange, they would need the three classrooms at the senior center back as classrooms because they have bathrooms. Since then, some parents expressed some concerns about space utilization. There was concern about what type of municipal use the building would occupy, so Board of Ed decided to hold their decision off until their December meeting. At their December meeting they will vote whether or not to give the first floor of North House for municipal use potentially this summer, and state their intent to make the second floor available for use perhaps three years from now. The problem is, what Town offices may or may not use the space impacts the parking study that she was hoping to start now. You can't determine the parking space needs until you know who is going to occupy the space. The school has made it clear that the seniors can stay where they are until all of this sorted out.

Discussion/approval of the Special Board of Selectmen's meeting minutes of November 19, 2012. Mr. Muller moved to approve the Special Board of Selectmen's meeting minutes of the November 19, 2012. Mr. Tracey seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

At 8:57 Mr. Tracey made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Muller seconded and the motion passed unanimously

Respectfully submitted

Judy M. DeVito
Administrative Assistant
Approved 1/03/13